

REMARKS

General remarks

Our application states, in part, "The desoldering sheath 102 has the same solder capturing properties as solder wick. The shape of the desoldering sheath 102 is adapted to conform to the shape of the tip 104 of the desoldering gun 100. This enables the desoldering sheath 102 to envelop the tip 104 of the desoldering gun 100 in such a manner that the interior surface of the desoldering sheath 102 contacts the tip 104 substantially in its entirety." (p. 4, para. 26, emphasis added)

Our application further states, in part, "...the woven metal fabric now forms a hollow metal wire. The hollow metal wire can then be flattened (step 510) for ease of handling when storing the hollow metal wire or when manufacturing the desoldering sheaths 102." (p. 7, para. 34, emphasis added)

Claim 1 already made clear that the hollow metal wire is molded to conform to the tip of a desoldering tool. Claims 1, 15, 18 and 22 have been amended to clarify that the hollow metal wire is formed from a metal fabric.

Claim Rejections – no explanation

Claims 10 – 14.

The Office Action Summary states under "Disposition of Claims" that "Claims 1 – 26 are rejected." However, no grounds are given in the Detailed Action for rejecting these claims. In fact, Claims 10 – 14 are not mentioned at all in the Detailed Action. Therefore we respectfully request that at least Claims 10 – 14 be allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 22, 24 and 26.

Examiner rejects Claims 22, 24 and 26 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Weglin (US Pat 3,172,382).

Weglin does not teach a desoldering sheath. Weglin teaches a “hollow tip 8, [which] is a commercially available cylindrically shaped copper soldering tip which has a passageway 24 drilled through its center lengthwise from one end of the tip to the other end.” (col. 2, lines 18 – 22)

We have amended Claim 22 to clarify that the hollow metal wire is formed from a metal fabric. This distinguishes Claim 22 over Weglin. Claims 24 and 26 depend on Claim 22 and are therefore also distinguished over the reference.

Claims 1 – 9, 15, 18 and 20 – 25.

Examiner rejects Claims 1 – 9, 15, 18 and 20 – 25 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Vanyi (US Pat 3,580,462).

Vanyi does not teach a desoldering sheath. According to Vanyi, “In the soldering tip of FIGS. 1 and 2 a tubular sleeve 34 surrounds a cored formed of a plurality of rods 36 which are assembled into a bundle as shown and retained in such assembled condition by such sleeve.” (col. 4, lines 13 – 16)

Further, according to the examiner, Vanyi teaches “forming a tip”. This is not at all the same as “conform[ing] to the tip of a desoldering tool” as recited in our Claim 1.

Claims 1, 15, 18 and 22 have been amended to clarify that the hollow metal wire is formed from a metal fabric. Vanyi makes no mention of metal fabric because his invention is quite different from ours. Claims 20 and 21 depend from Claim 18, and Claims 23 – 25 depend from Claim 22, and are therefore distinguished over the reference.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 16, 17 and 19.

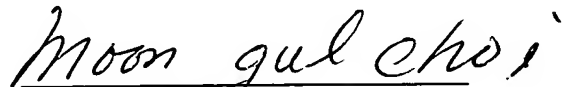
Examiner rejects Claims 16, 17 and 19 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanyi (US Pat 3,580,462) in view of Spirig (US Pat 4,323,631).

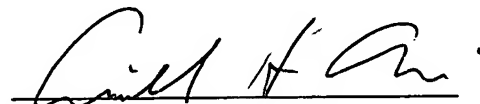
Claims 16 and 17 depend from Claim 15 while Claim 19 depends from Claim 18. We believe that the amendments to Claims 15 and 18 cure the rejection of Claims 16, 17 and 19.

Conclusion

We thank the examiner for her office action. We believe that the application is now in condition to be allowed and therefore request that it be allowed promptly.

Sincerely,


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